

Appin No. 09/721,862
Amdt. Dated February 3, 2006
Response to Office Action of December 28, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that the issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

The Applicant has amended claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claim set are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 to 14, 21, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright *et al.* (US 4,864,618).

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of previous claims 11 and 14, such that the amended claim 1 now recites the coding of a region by applying coded data, wherein at least some of the coded data includes data indicative of an identity, the identity being indicative of an identity of the region. Accordingly, claims 11 and 14 have been cancelled from the application.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Wright.

In particular, Wright describes printing a postmark or logo, where the postmark indicates the that the postage is issued through the U.S. Postal service, numbers indicating the postage amount, as well as the date and zip code of the city and state of origin, and the ID number of the postage meter that printed the postmark (see column 12 lines 48 to 55). Wright further describes that the postmarks can be printed in a predetermined code field (see column 12 lines 55 to 57).

However, the Applicant fails to see any description in Wright of coding the identity of the code field into the postmark

In contrast to Wright, the current amended claim 1 describes coding the identity of the region wherein the coded data is applied, within the coded data. This feature of claim 1 can

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allow numerous regions to be coded, wherein each region can be identified by reading the coded data.

Thus, as Wright does not describe having at least some of the coded data include an identity of the region to which the coded data has been applied, the current amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Wright.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,

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